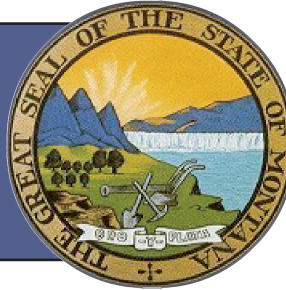


# Senate District

# 40



# 2004

## PREPARED FOR:

***Senator Mike Cooney (D)***

*713 Pyrite Ct.*

*Helena, MT 59601-5877*

*House District 79*

***Representative Dave Gallik (D)***

*120 E Lyndale Ave.*

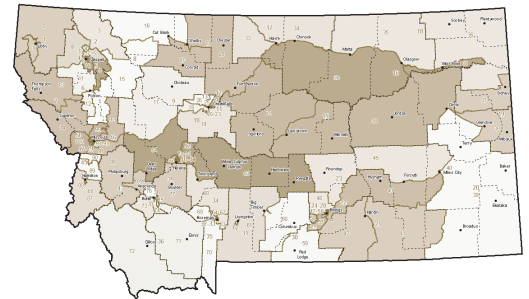
*Helena, MT 59601-4616*

*House District 80*

***Representative Mary Caferro (D)***

*P.O. Box 1036*

*Helena, MT 59624-1036*



*Courtesy of*

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# THE MONTANA INDEX

	MT	U.S.
Population in 2000	902,195	281,421,906
Population, 2003 estimate	917,621	290,809,777
Persons per square mile	6.2	79.6
Percent of people under 18 (2000)	25.5%	25.7%
Percent of people 65 and over (2000)	13.4%	12.4%
High School graduates 25 years and older	87.2%	80.4%
College Degree 25 years and older	24.4%	24.4%
Home ownership rate (2000)	69.1%	66.2%
Median value of owner-occupied homes (2000)	\$99,500	\$119,600
Percentage of Medicare beneficiaries in rural areas	76%	23%

Per capita personal income in 2001 was \$23,532 (ranking Montana 47th nationally)

9.1% of the population over age 65 lives in poverty (2002)

19.1% of children age 17 and under live in poverty (2002)

31.2% of female-headed families with children live in poverty (2002)

11,049 babies were born in 2002

32.8% of all births in 2001 were to unmarried women

15.65% of all births in 2001 were to women with fewer than 12 years of education

\$35,754 was the estimated salary for public school teachers in 2003 (ranking 46th nationally)

19.3 deaths per 100,000 of the population were determined suicides in 2001 (ranking 2nd nationally)

There are more public road miles in Montana than interstate miles in the entire United States

The motor fuel sales tax revenue of \$210 per capita ranks highest in the nation (2002)

There are 468 hospital beds per 100,000 population ranking 4th nationally (2002)

13 AIDS cases were reported in 2003 (200 total AIDS-related deaths through 2001)

21 animal rabies cases were reported in 2003

5,000 new cancer cases were reported in 2004

15.2% of all Montanans lacked health insurance in 2002

More than 90% of Montana's 273 communities have populations of less than 3,000 people

28% are households of only one person

78% of the population participates in gambling creating approximately \$150 per household in annual tax

Montana ranks second nationally for military veterans as a percent of population (16.2% in 2000)

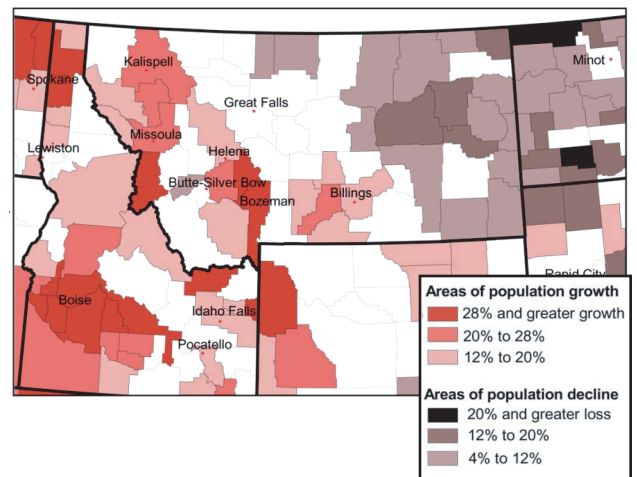
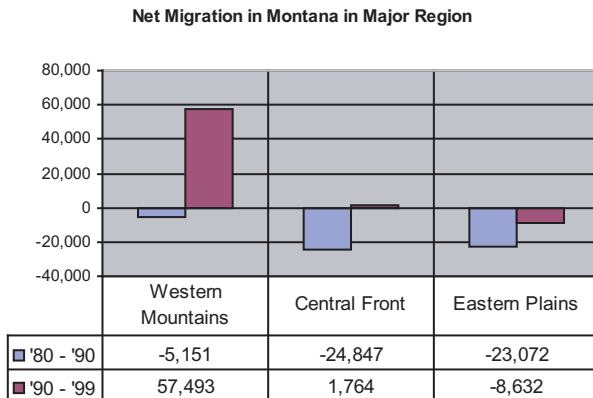
There were 3,713 Active Duty Military and 5,813 Reserve and National Guard in FY2003

As of 11/06/04 eight soldiers from Montana have died and 59 were wounded in action in Afganistan and Iraq

*Sources: Montana Office of Rural Health, Montana State University-Bozeman; United States Census Bureau; Washington Headquarter Directorate for Information - Department of Defense*

# Regional Growth & Economy

Montana's fastest-growing counties are Ravalli (44% growth), Gallatin (34%), Broadwater (32%), Jefferson (27%), Lake (26%), Flathead (25%), Stillwater (25%), and Missoula (22%) - the only counties with gains of over 20% and counties all located in the Western Mountain region.



## Areas of Greatest Economic Growth and Decline

There are more than 70 different sub-sectors of the economy. The way in which the economy is restructuring can be viewed by identifying where the biggest gains and losses in those sub-sectors are occurring. In Montana, the five fastest growing sub-sectors of the economy during the period from the late 1980s to the late 1990s are: (1) health care services; (2) finance, insurance, real estate (aka "FIRE") and non-depositories; (3) special trade contractors; (4) business services; and (5) engineering and management services. All had gains of over \$100 million in labor earnings.

Declining sub-sectors in Montana include production agriculture, lumber and wood products, railroads, trucking and warehousing, coal mining, and the U.S. military.

## SUB-SECTOR CHANGE IN MONTANA, '87 - '97

### Fast-Growing Sub-Sectors (2000 dollars)

- #1 Health care services + \$408 mil. + 49%
- #2 F.I.R.E., other than depos. + \$223 mil. + 96%
- #3 Special trade contractors + \$197 mil. + 67%
- #4 Business services + \$177 mil. + 85%
- #5 Engineering & mgmt services + \$127 mil. + 69%
- #6 Eating & drinking places + \$106 mil. + 41%
- #7 Auto dealers/service stations + \$91 mil. + 44%
- #8 Social services + \$90 mil. + 117%
- #9 General building contractors + \$78 mil. + 54%

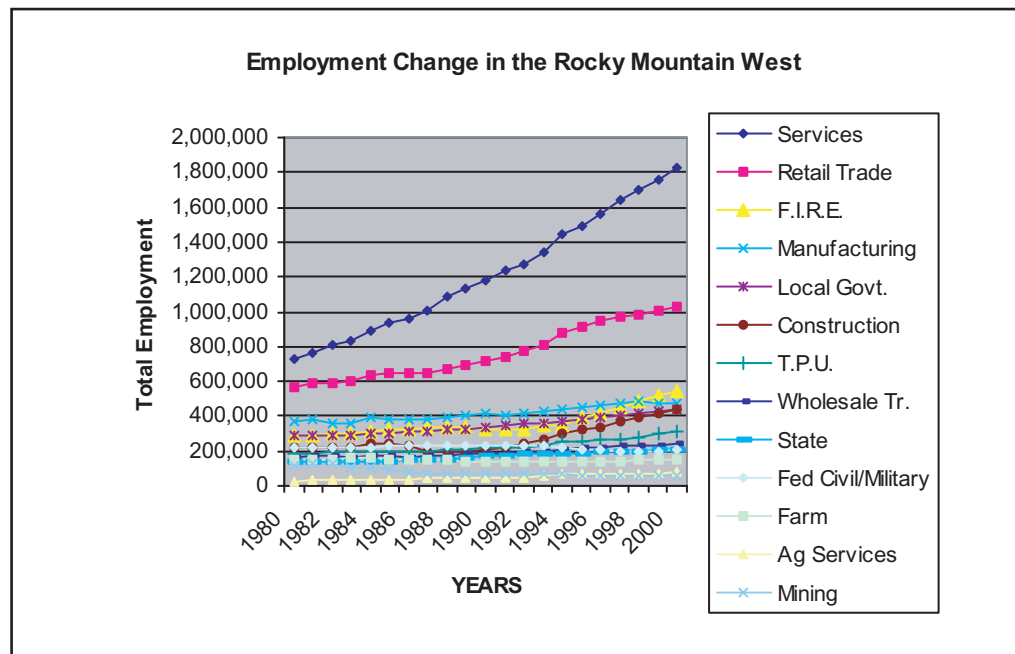
### Declining Sub-Sectors

- #6 U.S. Military - \$14 mil. - 6%
- #5 Coal mining - \$18 mil. - 20%
- #4 Trucking & warehousing - \$21 mil. - 7%
- #3 Railroads - \$28 mil. - 13%
- #2 Lumber & wood prod. - \$48 mil. - 15%
- #1 Net farm income - \$173 mil. - 45%

# Employment Sectors

In the last decade when the economy of the Rocky Mountain West became one of the fastest growing regional economies in the nation, employment growth in the broad services sector accounted for 37 percent of all new jobs in the region. The chart below shows employment change in the five-state region by major sector over the course of the last twenty years. There are 13 major sectors of the economy and two of these, services and retail trade, now account for nearly half of all employment.

The sector with the third highest employment is Finance, Insurance and Real Estate (the "FIRE" sector) is followed by manufacturing, construction, and local government, which includes public education.



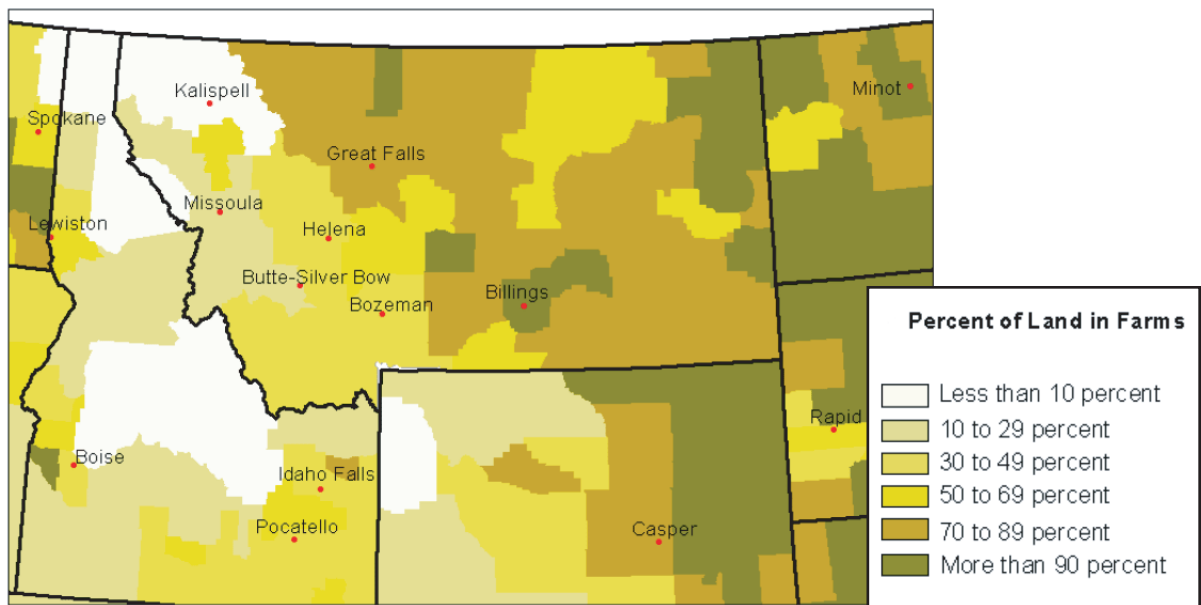
There is a perception in Montana that the state's economy is deteriorating, with many citing the growth in service and retail trade jobs and the loss of other "good" jobs in the economy. In actuality, the changing mix of jobs in Montana closely parallels the changing mix of jobs in the larger Rocky Mountain Region which has seen significant gains in economic performance in recent years. In the last decade, while service jobs grew by 37 percent in the fast-growing Rockies, they grew by 42 percent in Montana. Services and retail trade now account for nearly half of all jobs in the Rockies and for 49 percent of jobs in Montana in 2000.

*Source for this page and the previous two pages credited to Dr. Larry Swanson at the O'Conner Center for the Rocky Mountain West, University of Montana. Excerpted with permission from <http://www.crmw.org/read/downloads.asp> on October 21, 2004.*



# Agriculture Overview

At the time of the most recent Census of Agriculture in 1997, there were 91,575 square miles of agricultural land in Montana; the equivalent of over 58.6 million acres. Over 60 percent of the state's total land area was in farmland. Almost half of this agricultural land is located in the 21 counties of the Eastern Plains region. These nearly 29 million acres cover about 77 percent of the total land in the east. Another 19 million acres of farmland is located in the 14 Central Front counties, covering over 80 percent of that region's land area. In the West, agricultural land totalled 10.7 million acres and covered about 32 percent of the total land area.



"Negative impacts associated with noxious weeds may be ecological or economic. Noxious weeds displace native plants, reduce biodiversity, eliminate threatened and endangered plant species, alter normal ecological processes (e.g. nutrient cycling, water cycling), decrease wildlife habitat, reduce recreational value, and increase soil erosion and stream sedimentation. These negative ecological impacts result in major economic losses." (See: [www.mtweed.org/Impacts/General/general.html](http://www.mtweed.org/Impacts/General/general.html))

All Montana counties are required to control weeds listed as noxious by the state of Montana. Those species are: *Cardaria draba* (whiteweed), *Centaurea diffusa* (diffuse knapweed), *Centaurea maculosa* (spotted knapweed), *Centaurea repens* (Russian knapweed), *Centaurea solstitialis* (yellow starthistle), *Chondrilla juncea* (rush skeletonweed), *Chrysanthemum leucanthemum* (ox-eye daisy), *Cirsium arvense* (Canada thistle). (See: [www.umt.edu/mnps/countyweedlist.pdf](http://www.umt.edu/mnps/countyweedlist.pdf))

# District Wildlife Highlights

Montana supports a wealth of biological resources, including over 600 vertebrate animals and over 2200 plant species native to the state. Montana ranks 13th among all U.S. states in mammal diversity with over 100 species. Habitat diversity also ranks among the highest in the nation, with over 300 native vegetation types documented.



Chuck Carlson

Lake Helena is one of the few places in Montana where Clark's Grebes are known to nest. Populations of this handsome bird, named after Captain William Clark, declined greatly at the turn of the century when tens of thousands were killed for feathers. They have now recovered and can be found breeding in new areas not occupied before.

The Elkhorn Mountains provide important habitat for many wildlife species. Elkhorn Lake is a popular destination by trail.



Sue Crispin

Rabbit-foot Crazyweed adds intense color to Mount Helena's dry slopes in the early summer. This plant is unique to the region around Helena, where it is relatively common.

Much more information on Montana's animals, plants and habitats can be found on-line in the digital "Field Guides" maintained by the Natural Heritage Program at [www.mtnhp.org](http://www.mtnhp.org) or by contacting the Montana State Library at 406-444-3016. All photographs courtesy of the Natural Heritage Program unless otherwise stated.

